

Media Statement

8 September 2017

VicForests Media Statement responding to community concerns in Mirboo North 8/9/2017

Lachlan Spencer, VicForests General Manager Stakeholders and Planning said:

"VicForests has preliminary plans for three areas of state forest in the Mirboo North area, which have been zoned as suitable for timber harvesting.

"Planning for these areas will ensure any environmental values, such as streams and threatened species, are protected from any timber harvesting operations.

"These areas have been publically listed on VicForests Timber Release Plan for the past four years which is available on our website.

"The areas discussed are under consideration for timber harvesting but the planning and community consultation is still underway. No harvesting will be taking place before 2018.

"The areas planned to be harvested cover an area of approximately 50 hectares of state forest, which is native forest zoned as suitable for timber production.

"VicForests will be attending a town hall meeting in Mirboo North on Thursday 14 September to encourage the local community to have an input into our operations.

"VicForests formally calls for public submissions through public advertisements once a year.

"This year we have added a more proactive approach of letter dropping, meetings with people where they live and reaching out to local groups.

"As VicForests have never been into the Mirboo North area before, we saw this as a good opportunity to engage directly with the residents.

"We look forward to working together with the local Mirboo North community and developing our plans in a way that incorporates their feedback."

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The meeting was organised by the Mirboo Country Development Organisation and will take place at the Mirboo North Shire Hall at 5.30pm on Thursday 17 September.

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